


REMARKS

The Office Action of April 22, 2004 presents the examination of claims 22-52. The present paper amends claims 28, 32-34 and 49 and adds new claim 53.

The Office Action indicates that claims 36 and 45-48 are allowed, that claims 32, 33, 35 and 37-43 are objected to as depending upon rejected claims, but would be allowable if re-written into independent form incorporating the limitations of base claims, and that claims 28, 49 and 50 would be allowable if amended to overcome a rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph and to incorporate the limitations of base claims from which they depend.

Claim 36 is indicated as allowable and so claims 36-43 should be allowed without further amendment.

 Claim 28 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 22 from which it depends. Claim 28 was rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that the step (i) appeared to imply that the electrophoretic matrix already contacts the support before the step of filling the support with the matrix had been accomplished. The language of claim 28 now recites that the portion of the support "for contacting" the matrix is washed, thus clarifying that the washing part of step (i) is accomplished before the filling step (ii). Claim 28 is thus believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 49 is amended to recite an "organic" solvent, rather than a "polar" solvent, thus providing antecedent basis to the claim and placing claims 49 and 50 into condition for allowance.

Claim 32 is amended so as to incorporate the recitations of claim 29 from which it depended, as suggested by the Examiner to place it into condition for allowance. Claim 33 is amended to encompass the embodiment of the prior claim 30 and avoid duplication of claim 32. New claim 53 is introduced to recite the embodiment of the prior claim 31. Claims 30 and 31 are accordingly canceled. All of claims 33-35 and 52 depend from allowable claim 32 and so should be in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that, with the above amendments, claims 28, 32-43, 45-50 and 53 are in condition for allowance. The remaining claims have been canceled. Accordingly, the favorable actions of withdrawal of the standing rejections and passage of the present application to issue are requested.

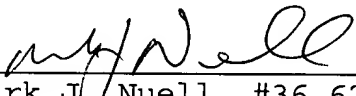
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark J. Nuell (Reg. No. 36,623) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Mark J. Nuell, #36,623

DRN/mua
2870-0168P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000